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"VOICE OF THE FRONTIER"
MON. - WED. - SAT.
9:30 to 9:55 A. M.

THE FRONTIER

Sixteen Pages

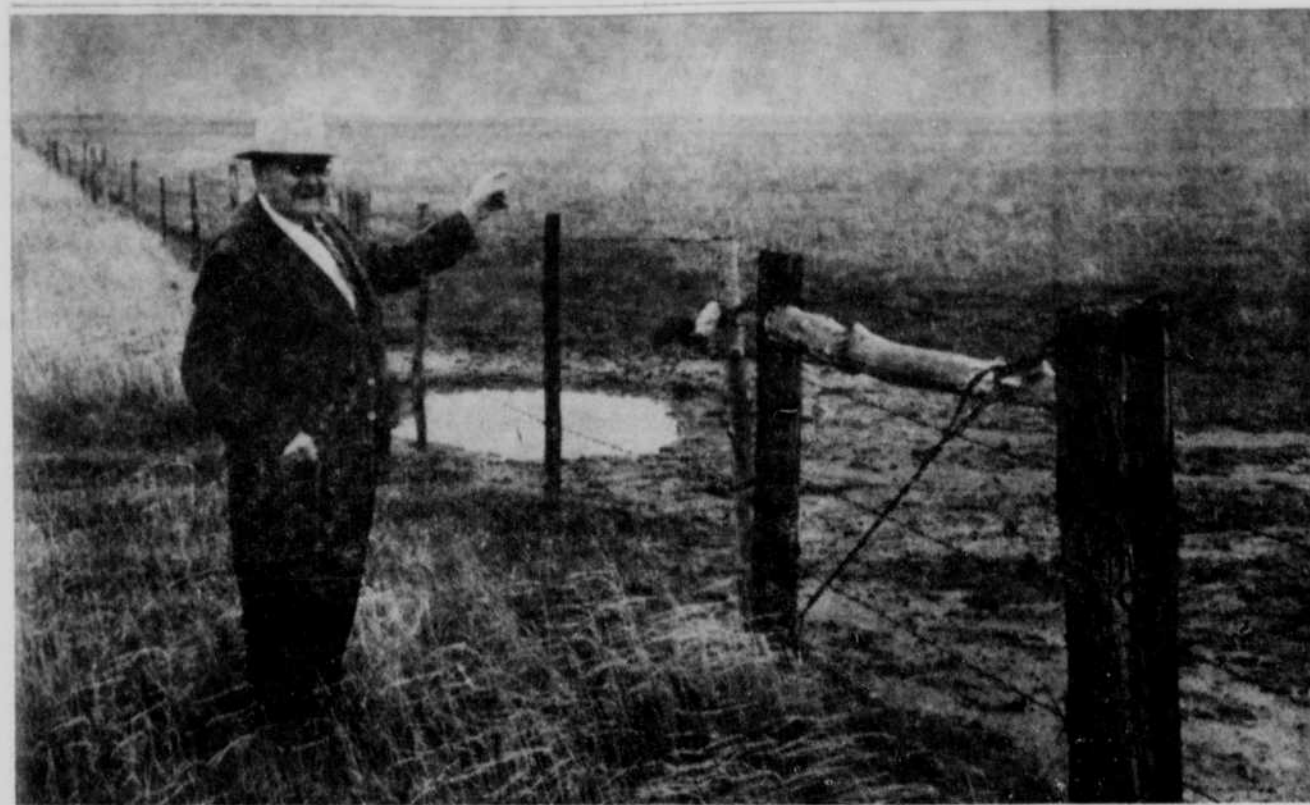
Section One

"The Voice of the Beef Empire"

O'Neill, Holt County, Nebraska, Thursday, June 4, 1959

Seven Cents

THE WEATHER	
	at noon
Thursday, May 28	63 40 29
Friday	59 52
Saturday	76 56 1.00
Sunday	67 52 1
Monday, June 1	74 45
Tuesday	78 46
Wednesday	82 51



Mr. Saunders points to "Doc" Mathews' Homestead

Former Editor Saunders Tells Heritage: The Frontier Was Born of Prairie Sod

By Jerry Petsche
Editor

In the "mind's eye" of many an old-timer, you can no more separate The Frontier from the living prairie sod than you can the grass that grows upon it.

And this strange feeling has come to me more than once as I have spoken with the old-timers who speak of "the newspaper you're with," and the opening of the prairie almost in the same breath.

But what was this strange feeling of the connection between the newspaper and the soil? What is there in the character of a newspaper that leaves you with the impression that you are associated with something that has the earth as its heritage?

And then, someone helped me to see it a few days ago.

The same feeling came to me again and again as I walked side by side with the old man to his father's homestead and as usual, I couldn't get it out of my mind.

Mr. Romaine Saunders, home again for Memorial Day to visit "the abode of the dead," had a gleam in his eye as he pointed to the homestead site of the founder of The Frontier. "Doc" W. D. Mathews lived right there," the former editor of The Frontier said.

And then he swung his arm around to the right and said, "There used to be a house there and right over there next to it was where my father homesteaded."

But why did "Doc" Mathews come to O'Neill? What made him pack up an old press and a few fonts of type in a horse-drawn wagon in 1880 and travel all the way from Monroe, Wisconsin?

What made him think he could make a go of it here? Why did he choose this then barren country to start what is probably the most difficult business to get underway from scratch? Why did men like Romaine's brother, Ezra, the first printer in Holt county, and one of the first employees of "Doc," ever believe they could gather enough paid foundry type in a "stick" to make a living?

"Because Doc saw there was money to be made where it was necessary for homesteaders to publish final proof of land claim and development," Mr. Saunders replied.

"The publisher got \$7.50 for every land notice in those days," he said.

So this is the way it was, I thought, this is why the old-timers feel that The Frontier is so closely associated with the prairie. The newspaper was, indeed, born of the sod upon which we walk.

But just how true, I was just beginning to realize as Mr. Saunders began to chuckle and tell another story.

At least one other newspaper published in this area didn't like "Doc" Mathews' move into Holt county. Top on that list, Mr. Saunders explained, was the owner of the Niobrara Tribune, a newspaper published at the district land office—a sheet that had formerly received all the land claim notices.

"Young 'Doc' got word one night that his equipment and shop were in danger. He then enlisted the aid of a few nearby cowboys—who relished the idea of a good scrap anyway—and the trouble ended right there," Mr. Saunders said.

But I found that this business of publishing information on the land was just the start of the story. If you think that it is strange that The Frontier got its very start because of the sod, consider this:

The Frontier was nurtured through the hard times because of the barren prairie.

"Times were hard," Romaine said. "The same ranchers that walked into the newspaper office to publish proof of land claims were beginning to mortgage their ranches," Mr. Saunders said, and this time there was no chuckle.

"It was the sheriff that came in the newspaper office with notices this time," he said.

"Jim Riggs was the editor when one of the early Holt county sheriffs (Romaine didn't mention the name) brought with him a fist full of notices. He wanted a 'rake-off' (we call it a kick-back now) and suggested that the notices would go to another newspaper if he didn't get it."

"Go ahead and take it to another newspaper," Jim said. "But if you do, I intend to tell the whole story in the newspaper."

"That was one story that was never printed," Mr. Saunders said as the merry gleam came into his eye again.

As Mr. Saunders and I drove back to O'Neill, I began to realize that this newspaper's "heritage of the sod" has not yet ended, and that it continues almost as if its principle reason for existence was to serve the prairie sod on Thursday—the same prairie which serves the world steaks on Sunday.

Yes, the heritage still remains. You can feel this each time a rancher or farmer comes to The Frontier office to get bills printed and to buy advertisements to sell his farm or ranch.

The Frontier was indeed born of the prairie, nurtured by the prairie, and still exists as the result of, and to satisfy the needs of, our beloved, God-given, grass covered sod.

Mrs. Charles E. Stout A Holt County Pioneer Dies Monday Evening

Mrs. Charles E. Stout, 84, last remaining member of a homesteading Holt county family, died at 9 p.m. Monday in St. Anthony's hospital. While a medical patient at the hospital she suffered a fractured hip in a fall. Her death came 10 days following surgery.

The late Mrs. Stout had been a resident of the community more than 80 years.

Requiem high mass will be held at 10:30 this morning (Thursday) at St. Patrick's Catholic church. Very Rev. Timothy O'Sullivan will officiate. Burial will be in Calvary cemetery under direction of Biglin's.

Honorary pallbearers will be H. E. Coyne and H. D. Grady.

Active pallbearers chosen are Julius D. Cronin, Edward Campbell, Edward M. Gallagher, Carroll (Cal) Stewart and Bennett Gilligan, all of O'Neill, and James Berigan of Atkinson.

Rosary was recited at eight o'clock Wednesday evening at the residence of Mrs. Hugh J. Birmingham, 430 East Benton st.

Mrs. Stout's maiden name was Kittie Dwyer. She was born March 3, 1875, near Hancock, Mich., a daughter of Thomas F. and Mary Dwyer. In 1877 the family homesteaded in the so-called Michigan settlement near O'Neill.

After completing studies then available at O'Neill, she attended school one year at Chicago, Ill., and attended school near St. Louis, Mo., where her aunt was a teaching nun.

As a young woman she was active in musical and dramatic productions here. For many years she was an outstanding soprano in the St. Patrick's church choir.

At Butte, Mont., living with her brother, John, she actively participated in the presidential campaign of William Jennings Bryan in 1896.



MRS. STOUT
... pioneer

On June 9, 1901, at St. Patrick's church here she married Mr. Stout, a young pharmacist from Blair, Mo. Mr. Stout owned and operated a drug store many years, known as Gilligan and Stout. Mr. Stout has been a registered pharmacist over 55 years.

The late Mrs. Stout had been regarded as one of the last surviving members of the "Michigan settlement," comprised of Ireland-born and Michigan-born settlers who came to the infant O'Neill community under the banner of Gen. John C. O'Neill.

One of her brothers was a priest, two sisters were nuns. She was the last remaining member of the family of nine children. The Stouts have resided the past 19 years at 120 South Fifth st.

A short time before the Stouts' observance of their 25th wedding anniversary, Mr. Stout was elected mayor of O'Neill. Subsequently he was reelected for two more terms.

In June, 1951, the Stouts celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Simultaneously their daughters and their husbands celebrated their 25th wedding anniversaries. The triple celebration included a special Mass and renewal of marriage vows. One of the sons-in-law, Mr. Birmingham, died in September, 1957.

Survivors include: Widower; daughters—Mrs. William J. (Irma) Froelich and Mrs. Hugh J. (Dorothy) Birmingham, both of O'Neill; grandchildren—William J. Froelich, Jr., of Wichita, Kans.; Mrs. Robert Berigan of O'Neill; Miss Mary Froelich, James and Charles Froelich, all of O'Neill; Miss Mary Louise Birmingham of New York City; Miss Barbara Birmingham of Chicago; and Mrs. William T. Riley of Omaha; four great-grandchildren.

Her husband, John, preceded her in death in 1947.

She came to Nebraska with her parents from Virginia in 1885 and settled near Nebraska City. The family then moved to Douglas. She was married in 1905 and moved to Holt county near Dora Lake.

In 1912 the couple moved to Stuart where she has resided since. She has made her home the past three years with Mr. and Mrs. Barney Nickless at the Stuart Rest Home.

She is survived by brothers Thomas Edwards of Douglas, Bruce of San Francisco; sisters, Mrs. Tom (Lucy) Davis of Atkinson, Mrs. Ed (Elizabeth) Smith of Endicott and Mrs. Benjamin (Vena) McCurry of Pawnee City; 10 step grandchildren and 15 nieces and nephews.

The Seger Funeral Home is in charge of funeral arrangements.

Miller Elected Head Of Concert Association

William Miller was elected president of the O'Neill Community Concert Association at their annual meeting last week.

Grand Peacock will serve as vice president, Bennett Grady as treasurer and Mrs. Harold Lindberg, secretary.

Winnie Barger and Mrs. John Watson were appointed chairmen. Mrs. John McCarville, Mrs. Demaris Birmingham and Mrs. Howard Manson will serve on the membership committee.

The campaign will be held the week of October 4. The Boys Town choir has been booked for the first fall concert.

Boldt to Hastings

Benjamin Boldt, the O'Neill district manager of the Continental Oil company, has been transferred to Hastings.

Bruce Barnett of Lincoln, a district manager in that area, will replace Boldt here.

Barnett is married and plans to live in O'Neill.

Welcome Mat Was Out For Holt School Alums; Many Outsiders Come

Graduates of several Holt county high schools met during the week for alumni banquets.

At Ewing, Miss Elja McCullough of Blair and Mrs. Rose Burk Funk of Ewing were honored as 1949 graduates of the high school. Classes of 1934 and 1959 were also honored at the banquet May 26 at the gymnasium.

Jerry Rotherham was elected president of the Ewing alumni group.

Mrs. Elwyn Robertson was elected president of the Chambers alumni association at their 7th annual banquet at the school auditorium Friday evening. Nearly 170 alumni of the Chambers school attended the affair at which Eugene Baker was toastmaster.

At the Atkinson high school auditorium Monday evening, several members of the class of 1934 and 1949 graduates were honored by toastmaster Jim Puckett and other alumni of Atkinson high school. Mrs. Fern Livingston was elected president of the annual meeting.

Junior alumni met Saturday evening at the Inman Methodist church for their annual banquet.

Mrs. James Gallagher was toastmistress of the event honoring Les Conger, Independence, Mo., as the only member of the 1934 class attending. Mrs. Eva Murton of Osmond, who graduated in 1896, was the oldest alumnus present. Mrs. Norbert Clark presided and Mrs. Joe Monahan was elected to head the group for the coming year.

The ninth annual alumni banquet at Page was attended by nearly 200 graduates of that school. Honor classes were 1919, 1929, 1939, 1949 and 1959. Ellsworth Hunter of the 1919 class was toastmaster. See St. Joseph of Atkinson alumni story also on this page.

Joe Stutz Is Named Chamber President At Regular Meeting

Joe Stutz, manager of the McDonald department store here in O'Neill, was named president of the O'Neill Chamber of Commerce Monday night at the Chamber's regular meeting.

Ray Eby, who Stutz will replace, was elected to a position on the board of directors.

A. L. Patton, owner of the Ben Franklin store here, was elected to fill the post of 1st vice president and Dale Wilson, owner of the east-to-coast store was named 2nd vice president.

John Watson, cashier at the First National Bank, was elected treasurer. Joe McLesch, manager of the hardware department at the Gambles store, was elected to the Chamber board of directors along with Eby, McLesch and Eby were elected over Virgil Laursen and Reed Herley.

Hiatt Is Councilman For City's Fourth Ward

Arlo Hiatt was appointed councilman for the 4th city ward at the last regularly scheduled city council meeting.

He replaces Bill Mattern who moved out of the ward and became ineligible to serve as 4th ward councilman.

In other action the city council set a budget of \$173,000 for the coming year.

This is an increase over last year and is due to the planning of new well and booster pump facilities.

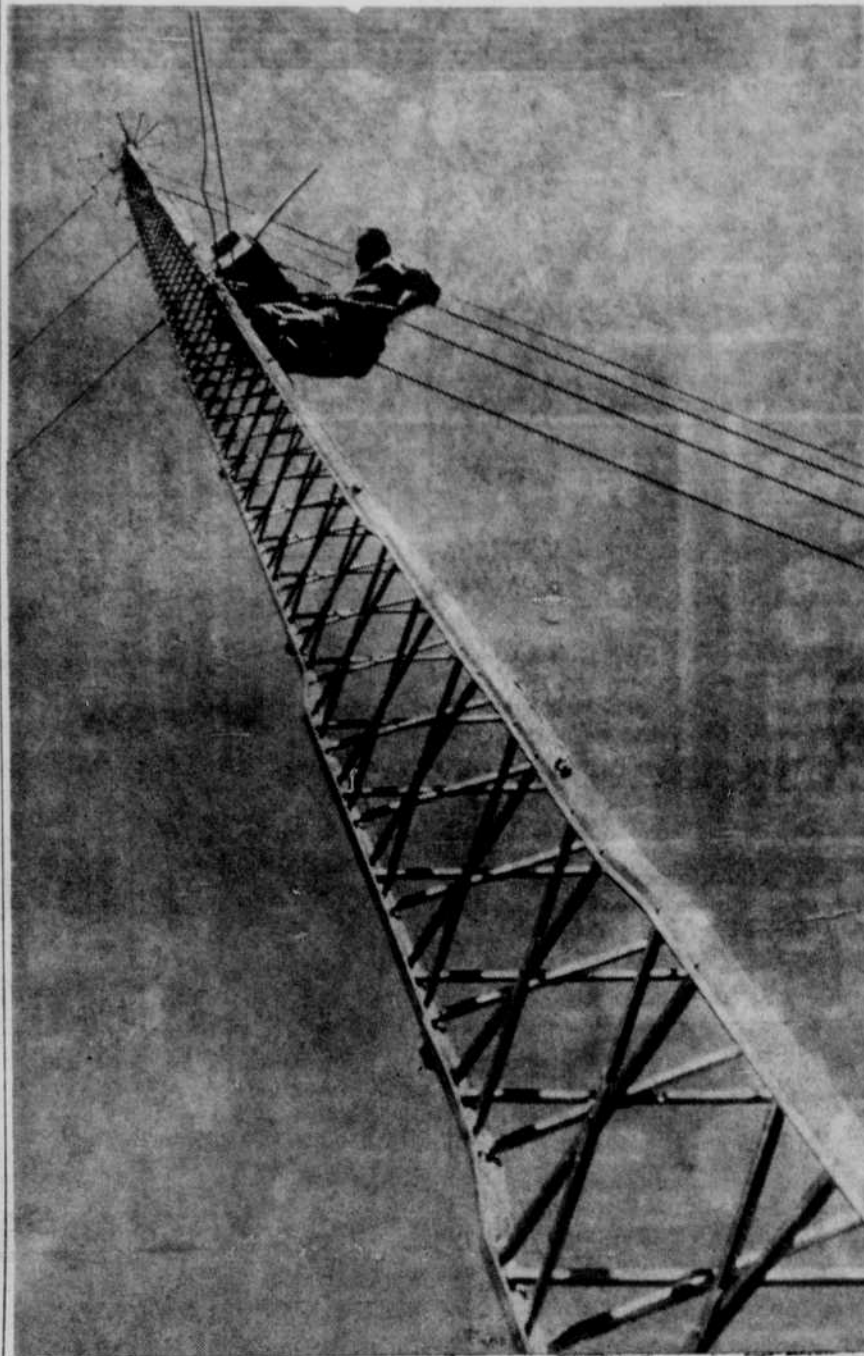
The band mothers were also appropriated \$1,000 by the council.

Orchard Woman Dies

ORCHARD—Mrs. T. A. Drayton died Tuesday morning in a Sioux City hospital. She suffered a heart attack Friday morning at her home here and was taken by ambulance to Sioux City.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday afternoon at the Evangelical United Brethren church in Orchard.

Lightning, Tornado and Hail Worry Sandhills Saturday; O'Neill Television Impaired



Reg Pinkerman, who cares for the city's booster tower repairs the amplifying and converting units. Lightning struck the tower and new parts from Canada are expected to arrive in a few days.

Concrete Structure Is Left Standing; Wall Is Blown Out

At least one tornado and several reports of serious lightning and hail came along with the needed inch and more of moisture during the week.

Television reception in O'Neill was impaired because of lightning which struck the booster tower northeast of the city on Saturday.

The tornado touched down on the Fred Howard farm seven miles north of Orchard Saturday night. No one was injured and although damage to property was slight, the tornado did tear out a solid concrete hog house wall and left the building standing. See photo on the inside pages.

Mrs. Howard said shingles were torn off roofs, that several haystacks in the area were hit by the tornado but that little other damage was reported in the area.

O'Neill will be without television until Friday according to Reg Pinkerman, the TV technician who cares for the municipally owned booster.

He told a Frontier reporter that lightning destroyed the parts of the units which convert and amplify the signal from channel 4 to channel 13.

"The parts should be on their way from Canada within the next few days," Pinkerman said.

Some O'Neill homes reported that they were able at times to get channel 4 but that reception was sporadic and poor.

During the past week O'Neill and the surrounding area received 1.24 inches and in some areas including Lynch and an area north of Orchard there were reports of two and a half inches or more.

The biggest rain came Saturday when a full inch fell within 45 minutes. O'Neill received a trace on Wednesday and again on Sunday.

The extended five-day forecast calls for more rain with increasing cloudiness for the Sandhills.

Swimming Lessons Offered

The City park board announced that swimming lessons will again be held this year at the O'Neill Municipal pool. Registration is as follows: Monday, June 8, all O'Neill residents. Tuesday, all Holt County residents, and Wednesday, for out of county residents and all those who were unable to register earlier. Registration time is 9 a.m. for all three days.

Offer Music Program

The O'Neill Schools will offer an eight week instrumental music program starting June 8 and ending July 31. This program is for students who want to continue lessons during the summer months and also for beginners and students who wish private instruction.

A representative of a music instrument company will be here, afternoon and evening June 8 to rent horns to students that do not own an instrument.

All students wishing to take part in the summer lesson program must contact Mr. Duane Miller on or before June 8 to schedule a lesson time.

Attend Moler Funeral

Those from this area who attended the funeral of Al Moler, who died suddenly at his home in Hastings May 25, were: Mr. and Mrs. John Grutsch, Elwin and Morris, Blake Benson, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Moler and Don, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Vitt, Mrs. Fred Appleby, Mrs. Frank Sullivan and Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Rohde.

The funeral was Friday morning at St. Cecilia's church, Hastings. Mr. Moler's ten children, born and raised near O'Neill, attended. The Molers recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

Redbird's Post Office Is Closed

REDBIRD—One of the last institutions holding the people of this little community together was closed on Memorial Day this year.

Postal Inspector C. M. Duxbury of Grand Island closed the books for the last time in the 90-year-old post office here.

For many years in this former Indian country on the Niobrara River northeast of O'Neill, the community has served as a trading post, trapping center, rural school, a post office and a place where one could buy groceries for his family.

One by one they faded. Now only Holt county School District 3 remains.

"It just made me sick when I heard about it," Mrs. Art Bessert, a resident and daughter of one of the first Redbird postmasters said. "There is little now to keep the community together."

H. V. Rosenkrans, the retiring postmaster, said the office was closed by federal authorities because it had been listed as fourth class and not doing enough business to warrant its being kept open.

Shortly after the Kincaid homestead act was passed there were 59 post offices in the county. Now only 9 remain. They include Amelia, Atkinson, Chambers, Emmer, Ewing, Inman, Page, Stuart and O'Neill.

"When I was a girl, I remember the first post office here in Redbird," Mrs. Bessert said. "The men dug a hole in the ground and filled the sides with sod."

"Just a few yards away from the little soddy, I remember hearing the Sioux and Ponca Indian raiding parties riding back and forth against each other," she added.

The Redbird post office was named after a fresh water stream that flows into the Niobrara.

Former postmaster Rosenkrans said trappers were the first white men in the area and worked where Sioux Indian villages on hills overlooking the Niobrara.



Former postmaster H. V. Rosenkrans checks out his books for the last time in Redbird. Postal Inspector C. M. Duxbury of Grand Island stands in the rear.

Collectors from nearly every state arranged for postmarked letters on the last day of operation.

Postal Inspector Duxbury said all mail to Redbird will be routed through Lynch, a few miles northwest of the little community of half a dozen families.

300 St. Joe Alumni Attend First Banquet In Atkinson Sunday

Over 300 alumni of St. Joseph's high school in Atkinson attended the first alumni banquet at the Knights of Columbus hall Sunday.

The class of 1934 was especially honored with a "This Is Your Life" theme at the banquet.

The alumni man and woman representing the oldest classes present were Mrs. Nora Hayes Ulrich of Atkinson, class of 1914, and Ed Coufal of Stuart, class of 1920.

Those who traveled furthest were Capt. Robert Mack of Kokomo, Ind., and Miss Charlotte Miller of Denver, Colo.

Members of the honored class of 1934 present were Claudine Brewer Hinkleley of Beaverton, Ore., Roy Ries of Atkinson, Charles Prussa of Atkinson, Vincent Mulen of San Bruno, Calif., Eleanor Croft Frichenstein of West Point, Margaret Barrette Henning of Atkinson, Kathleen Morgan Steinhilber of Stuart and Catherine Barnes Schaaf of Emmet.

The featured speaker was Father John McNally of Elgin, and the toastmaster, William Miller, class of 1948. See picture on inside pages.

Lay Teachers to Remain

Most lay teachers at St. Mary's Academy plan to be in O'Neill for the summer months. Many of them are planning short vacation trips.

Miss Claire Tomjack, Mrs. F. J. Kubitschek, Mrs. Leo Gokte, Mrs. Jack Arbutnot and Mrs. Don Becker, teachers at SMA, will be at their homes during the summer.

Don Templemeyer, St. Mary's coach, will manage the community swimming pool.

Fred Tanner Rites At Lynch on Sunday

Funeral services for Fred Tanner, 82, retired farmer of Lynch were held Sunday at the First Methodist church at Lynch. Burial was at the L'Eau Qui Court cemetery at Niobrara. The Rev. Scragg officiated. The Jones Funeral home was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Tanner was born in 1876 at Smithland, Ia., to Albert and Jane Jackson Tanner. He lived at Verdell until about 23 years ago when he moved to Lynch.

Mr. Tanner was found dead in bed at his residence May 26. He was preceded in death by his wife, Laura.

Survivors include: one son, Fred Tanner of Houston, Tex., 3 brothers and 3 grandchildren.

Pallbearers were: Ernest Darnell, Carle Darnell, Anton Kalowski, William Mulhair, Lee Barnes and Louis Nelson.

Stuart Resident Dies; 2 P.M. Rites Today At Community Church

The funeral of Mrs. Lu Emma Fannie Chaney, 85, who died Wednesday at 1:30 a.m. will be 2 p.m. today at the Stuart Community church, the Rev. Herbert Young officiating.

Mrs. Chaney had been in the Atkinson Memorial hospital for a few days preceding her death.

Her husband, John, preceded her in death in 1947.

She came to Nebraska with her parents from Virginia in 1885 and settled near Nebraska City. The family then moved to Douglas. She was married in 1905 and moved to Holt county near Dora Lake.

In 1912 the couple moved to Stuart where she has resided since. She has made her home the past three years with Mr. and Mrs. Barney Nickless at the Stuart Rest Home.

She is survived by brothers Thomas Edwards of Douglas, Bruce of San Francisco; sisters, Mrs. Tom (Lucy) Davis of Atkinson, Mrs. Ed (Elizabeth) Smith of Endicott and Mrs. Benjamin (Vena) McCurry of Pawnee City; 10 step grandchildren and 15 nieces and nephews.

The Seger Funeral Home is in charge of funeral arrangements.

Sale Dates Claimed

JUNE 6—A cattle and equipment sale Saturday at the place located one-half mile north of Chambers, L. O. and Wanda Lenz, owners, Grossnicklaus and O'Connell, auctioneers.

JUNE 13—Cattle and machinery sale at the ranch three and one-half miles southeast of O'Neill or three and one-half miles west of Inman along highway 275. K. C. and Eileen Hunt, auctioneers.

Col. Ed Thorin, auctioneer.